

Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend Claims 8 and 10, and add new Claims 27 and 28, as set out below in the complete listing of claims of the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 8, comprising:
 - a) forming VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate crystals by means of crystallizing VA-2914 in isopropanol;
 - b) separating the VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate crystals; and
 - c) converting VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate into VA-2914.
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein formation of VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate crystals comprises dissolving VA-2914 in isopropanol under heat, and subsequent cooling of the resulting solution, optionally under stirring.
3. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein the VA-2914 and isopropanol mixture is heated at a temperature comprised between 75°C and the solvent reflux temperature, until complete dissolution of VA-2914, and subsequently, the resulting solution of VA-2914 in isopropanol is allowed to cool at a temperature comprised between 0°C and 30°C.
4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate crystals are separated by filtration.
5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein conversion of VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate into VA-2914 is carried out by recrystallization in a solvent.
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein conversion of VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate into VA-2914 is carried out by recrystallization in a solvent chosen between ethanol/water and ethyl ether.

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein said VA-2914 compound is obtained by acid hydrolysis of compound 3,3-(1,2-ethanedioxy)-5 α -hydroxy-11 β -(4-N,N-dimethylaminophenyl)-17 α -acetoxy-19-norpregna-9-ene-20-one [carbinol acetate].

8. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying 17 α -acetoxy-11 β -(4-N,N-dimethylaminophenyl)-19-norpregna-4,9-diene-3,20-dione (VA-2914) comprising:

forming VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate by dissolving VA-2914 in isopropanol under heat,

cooling the resulting solution to obtain crystalline VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate, and

isolating the crystalline VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate from the mother liquor, so as to retain isopropanol-soluble impurities in the mother liquor.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A process for obtaining 17 α -acetoxy-11 β -(4-N,N-dimethylaminophenyl)-19-norpregna-4,9-diene-3,20-dione (VA-2914) isopropanol hemisolvate, comprising dissolving VA-2914 in isopropanol under heat allowing the resulting solution to cool to a temperature comprised between 0°C and 30°C, and separating the resulting VA-2914 isopropanol hemisolvate from the mother liquor, so as to retain isopropanol-soluble impurities in the mother liquor.

11-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the VA-2914 is in the form of a white crystalline solid.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the VA-2914 has a melting point of 189°C.

18-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) Isolated VA-2914, in the form of white crystals.

25. (Previously Presented) Isolated VA-2914, in the form of crystals with a melting point of 189°C.

26. (Previously Presented) Isolated VA-2914, in the form of white crystals with a melting point of 189°C.

27. (New) The process of Claim 8, wherein the separation step is performed by filtration.

28. (New) The process of Claim 10, wherein the separation step is performed by filtration.